

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-16 and add new claims 17-29 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) An apparatus for determining a constitution of a user by the use of a computer, the apparatus comprising:

constitution questions displaying means for displaying, on a screen of the computer, questions which are to be answered by the user, the questions being constructed such that the questions are classified into a plurality of items which are used for determination of the user's constitution and such that each one of the plurality of items bears a plurality of ranks which are used for quantitatively expressing a strength of a tendency of the user to show with regard to each of the plurality of items, at least one of the plurality of ranks to be selected by the user for each of the plurality of items;

selecting means for selecting at least one of the plurality of ranks based on data indicative of the user's answers to the questions displayed on the screen for each of the plurality of items;

calculating means for calculating a score of each of the plurality of ranks based on a selection result obtained by the selecting means and according to a predetermined point allocation which defines how many points are allocated to each one of the plurality of ranks when selected;

summing means for summing a plurality of scores obtained by the calculating means with regard to all of the plurality of items, for each of the plurality of ranks, thereby determining the user's constitution as one of a predetermined plurality of types based on a plurality of sums respectively obtained by the summing means for the plurality of ranks and according to a set of predetermined determination rules, the summing means includes:

(a) provisional determining means for obtaining the plurality of sums based on data indicative of the user's answers to a first portion of the questions displayed on the screen; and for provisionally determining the user's constitution as at least one of the plurality of types based on the obtained plurality of sums and according to a first predetermined determination rule; and

(b) final determining means for finally determining the user's constitution as one of the provisionally determined at least one type based on data indicative of the user's

answers to a second portion of the questions displayed on the screen and according to a second predetermined determination rule; and

displaying means for displaying the determined constitution on the screen.

18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the summing means sums a plurality of scores obtained by the calculating means with regard to all of the plurality of items, for each of the plurality of ranks, thereby determining the user's constitution as one of a predetermined plurality of types based on a distribution pattern of a plurality of sums respectively obtained by the summing means for the plurality of ranks and according to the set of predetermined determination rules, wherein the distribution pattern reflects how a population consisting of the plurality of sums is scattered over a range of the plurality of ranks.

19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the predetermined plurality of types comprise a plurality of basic types each of which is established independently of other types; and at least one compound type obtained by compounding selected ones of the plurality of basic types, and

the summing means determines the user's constitution as one of the at least one compound type, upon the distribution pattern demonstrating that the plurality of sums are distributed so as to be scattered at ones of the plurality of ranks.

20. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

a system for supporting, by the use of a computer with a screen, in advising a proper-diet-plan suitable to a user, the system comprising:

a proper-diet-plan memory in which there has been stored a relationship between a plurality of kinds of constitutions presupposed for human beings, and a plurality kinds of proper-diet-plans presupposed for human beings' diets; and

proper-diet-plan displaying means for retrieving in the proper-diet-plan memory the proper-diet-plan suitable to the user based on the constitution determined by the apparatus according to claim 17, and for displaying the retrieved proper-diet-plan on the screen.

21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein each of the plurality of kinds of proper-diet-plans is defined to provide a proper diet which is suitable to the user's constitution, and which contributes to an improvement in the user's constitution toward a medium one, to the user, in the form of a recipe for practicing the proper diet.

22. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the constitution questions displaying means displays the questions on the screen at at least two separate times, irrespective of whether or not parts of the questions which are displayed at the at least two separate times, respectively, are overlapped in content to each other;

the first portion of the questions is displayed at a first time on the screen by the questions displaying means; and

the second portion of the questions is displayed at a second time succeeding the first time on the screen by the constitution questions displaying means.

23. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein a number of the plurality of ranks is larger than that of at least one basic type among the predetermined plurality of types, the at least one basic type being established independently of other types.

24. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the apparatus performs a computer-implemented method of providing a customer with a selected one of a plurality kinds of oral intakes including at least one of a food and a beverage, which selected one is compatible with the customer's constitution, the method comprising:

a constitution determining step of determining the customer's constitution, by operating the apparatus according to claim 17, prior to selection from the plurality kinds of oral intakes;
and

an oral intake selecting step of selecting at least one of the plurality kinds of oral intakes which corresponds to the determined constitution, according to a predetermined selection rule.

25. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, in combination with an apparatus for determining the user's condition by the use of a computer with a screen, the apparatus for determining the user's condition including:

(a) condition questions displaying means for displaying on the screen, questions to be answered by the user, wherein the questions are constructed so as to be classified into a plurality of items used for determining the user's condition; and

(b) condition displaying means for determining the user's condition as one of a predetermined plurality of types based on data indicative of the user's answers to the questions displayed on the screen, and according to a predetermined determination rule; and for displaying the determined condition on the screen.

26. (New) A server computer which is connected through a communication network to a client computer with a screen as used by a user, and which is operated to determine the user's constitution, the server computer comprising:

rank selecting means for selecting at least one of a plurality of ranks which are used for quantitatively expressing a strength of a tendency of the user to show with regard to each of a plurality of items which are used for determination of the user's constitution based on data indicative of information with regard to the user himself or herself;

calculating means for calculating a score of each of the plurality of ranks based on a selection result obtained by the rank selecting means and according to a predetermined point allocation which defines how many points are allocated to each one of the plurality of ranks when selected;

summing means for summing a plurality of scores obtained by the calculating means with regard to all of the plurality of items, for each of the plurality of ranks, thereby determining the user's constitution as one of a predetermined plurality of types based on a plurality of sums respectively obtained by the summing means for the plurality of ranks and according to a set of predetermined determination rules, the summing means including:

(a) provisional determining means for obtaining the plurality of sums based on data indicative of the user's answers to a first portion of the questions displayed on the screen; and for provisionally determining the user's constitution as at least one of the plurality of types based on the obtained plurality of sums and according to a first predetermined determination rule; and

(b) final determining means for finally determining the user's constitution as one of the provisionally determined at least one type based on data indicative of the user's answers to a second portion of the questions displayed on the screen and according to a second predetermined determination rule; and

constitution displaying means for displaying the determined constitution on the screen.

27. (New) A computer-implemented method of determining a constitution of a user comprising:

displaying on a screen of the computer, questions which are to be answered by the user, wherein the questions are constructed, such that the questions are classified into a plurality of items which are used to determine the user's constitution, and such that each one of the plurality of items bears a plurality of ranks which are used for quantitatively expressing a strength of a tendency of the user to show with regard to each of the plurality of items, wherein at least one of the plurality of ranks is to be selected by the user for each of the plurality of items;

selecting at least one of the plurality of ranks based on data indicative of the user's answers to the questions displayed on the screen for each of the plurality of items;

calculating a score of each of the plurality of ranks based on a selection result obtained by the selecting step and according to a predetermined point allocation which defines how many points are allocated to each one of the plurality of ranks when selected;

summing a plurality of scores obtained by the calculating step with regard to all of the plurality of items, for each of the plurality of ranks, thereby determining the user's constitution as one of a predetermined plurality of types based on a plurality of sums respectively obtained by the summing step for the plurality of ranks and according to a set of predetermined determination rules, the summing step including:

(a) a provisional determining step of obtaining the plurality of sums based on data indicative of the user's answers to a first portion of the questions displayed on the screen; and of provisionally determining the user's constitution as at least one of the plurality of types based on the obtained plurality of sums and according to a first predetermined determination rule; and

(b) a final determining step of finally determining the user's constitution as one of the provisionally determined at least one type based on data indicative of the user's answers to a second portion of the questions displayed on the screen and according to a second predetermined determination rule; and

displaying the determined constitution on the screen.

28. (New) The computer-implemented method of determining a constitution of a user according to claim 27, wherein the method is performed by a computer program to be executed by a computer.

29. (New) The computer-implemented method of determining a constitution of a user according to claim 28, wherein the computer program is stored in a computer-readable storage medium.